



Great Marlow School

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HEADTEACHER
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Mr N Maguire

Tuesday, 10 February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to provide guidance on interpreting the Year 9 Science Progress Reports.

This academic year, Year 9 students have begun studying GCSE-level content across Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Their recent assessments use GCSE examination materials and appropriate GCSE 9–1 grade boundary. The “Working At Grade” shown on the progress report for Science reflects your child’s performance on the content covered so far and is not a prediction of their final GCSE outcome.

Students’ grades are reported as two combined grades, which will either be equal or consecutive values.

For example, a 5_5 indicates a secure, middle Grade 5 performance, while a 6_5 indicates a performance at the upper end of Grade 5 or lower Grade 6.

This grading format reflects the structure of the Combined Science GCSE, which most of our students will take in Year 11.

As Year 9s continue to cover the vast range of topics in the GCSE curriculum, this working at grade may change dependent on their performance as the course advances. The Progress Reports in June will be reported in the same way with an opportunity to see if your child has maintained their working at grade throughout the academic year.

Decisions regarding Separate Sciences GCSE entry are not made in Year 9. Instead, students’ performance across the Key Stage 4 years will be carefully reviewed before suggesting the most appropriate pathway for individuals into Year 11. Students in the top set of each house continue to learn the content of the Separate Science course so that they are best prepared if they are invited to sit these exams in Year 11.

Should you have any questions regarding your child’s progress, please do not hesitate to contact their Science teacher. Names can be found on your child’s timetable, and email addresses follow the format:

[Initial][Surname]@gms.bucks.sch.uk

Thank you for your continued support. By working together, we can ensure your child feels confident, supported, and well-prepared as they continue their Science studies.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs. Jen Webster

Head of Science
Great Marlow School